

EDWARD J. MARKEY

7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
THE INTERNET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2107**

2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2107  
(202) 225-2836

**DISTRICT OFFICES:**

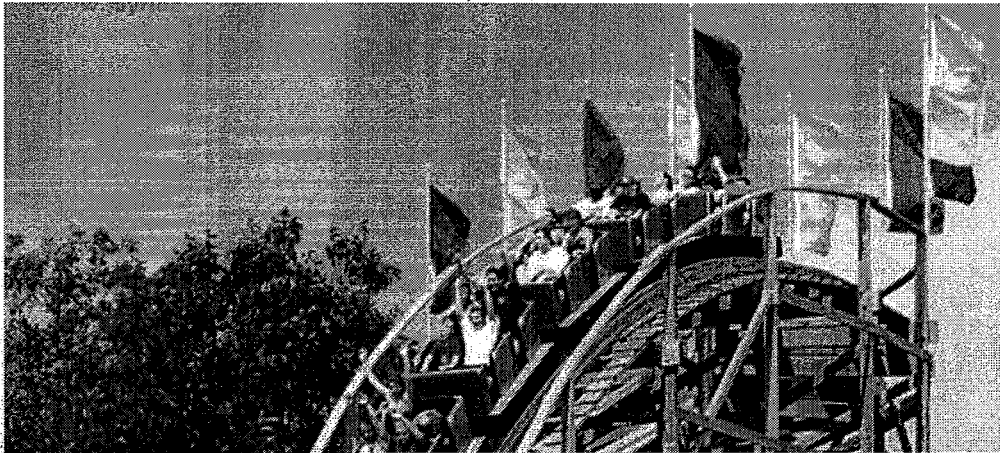
5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101  
MEDFORD, MA 02155  
(781) 396-2900

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102  
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702  
(508) 875-2900  
[www.house.gov/markey](http://www.house.gov/markey)

June 5, 2003

**"Woman Dies While Riding Roller Coaster"**

AP, 6/1/2003



but the industry carved out a special interest loophole in 1981, so today, these rides are often unregulated. That appears to be the case in Indiana:

**“State officials acknowledged that their inspectors certify only the mechanical aspects of a ride, not its operations: ‘We don’t do that, and as far as I know, we don’t have the authority to do that,’ said Alden Taylor, a spokesman for Commissioner, which oversees ride inspections.”**

-Indianapolis Star, June 4, 2003

While the rides escape the basic safety regulations applied to other products, they are rapidly changing. In 1990, the top speed of roller coasters was just 70 mph. Today the top speed is 120 mph- a 71 percent increase in just 12 years. Moreover, injuries rose 96 percent over the last five years.

WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO REDUCE INJURIES ON THEME PARK RIDES. Please join me in supporting H.R. 2207, the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act, to close the Roller Coaster loophole. Call David Moulton at 225-2836 to join us in this effort create a safer, more enjoyable amusement park experience.

Sincerely,  
/s/

Edward J. Markey